

Maine Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

January 28, 2009

Synopsis

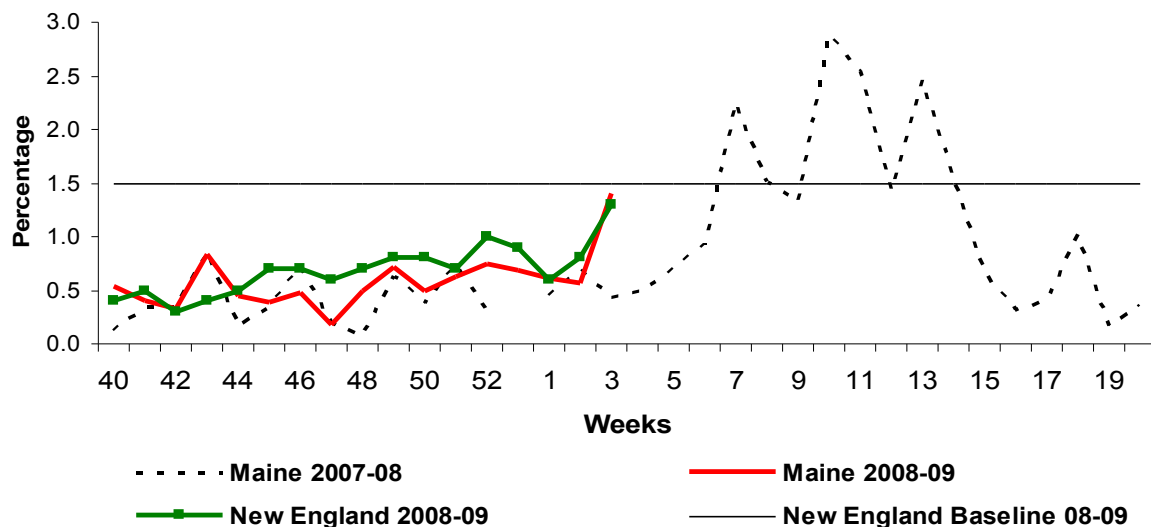
During the week ending January 24th, 2009 (MMWR week 3)*, Maine reported regional influenza activity. Five cases of PCR confirmed influenza A were reported this week, and 16 cases of positive influenza using rapid testing were reported. Outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI) increased this week, bringing Maine close to the New England baseline. There was one lab confirmed outbreak of ILI in a long term care facility in the Midcoast Region.

Moderate Disease Surveillance

Outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI)

During the week ending January 24th, 2009, 1.4% of outpatient visits reported by seven Maine Sentinel Providers were for influenza-like illness (ILI). ILI is defined as fever ($\geq 100^{\circ}$ F / $\geq 37.8^{\circ}$ C) AND cough or sore throat in the absence of a known cause. In the New England States, 1.3% of outpatient visits were attributed to influenza-like illness during week 3. Maine is beginning to see an increase in visits for ILI.

Outpatient Visits for Influenza-like Illness – Maine, 2007-09



New England is defined as Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

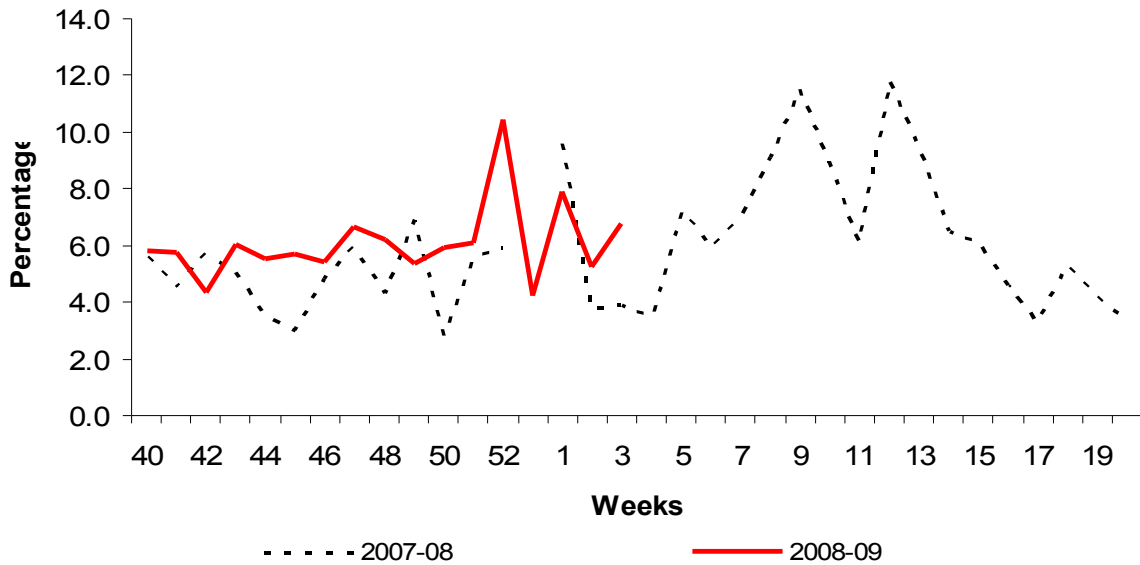
Severe Disease Surveillance

Hospital inpatients

During the week ending January 24th, 2009, 6.8% of hospital admissions reported by three hospitals were attributable to pneumonia or influenza.

* At time of publication, reporting may be incomplete. Numbers presented here may change as more reports are received.

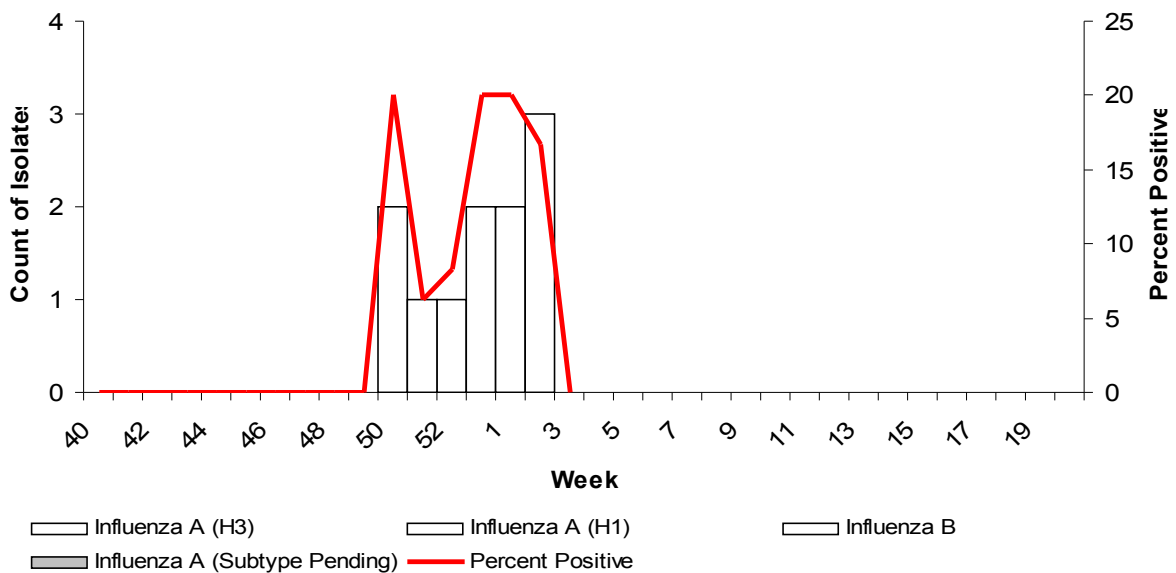
Hospital Admissions Due to Pneumonia or Influenza -- Maine, 2007-09



Laboratory Reporting

During the week ending January 24th, 2009, ten samples were submitted for testing to the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL). None tested positive for influenza. To date, 125 samples have been submitted, 11 (8.8%) were positive for influenza: ten for influenza A H1, and one for influenza A H3.

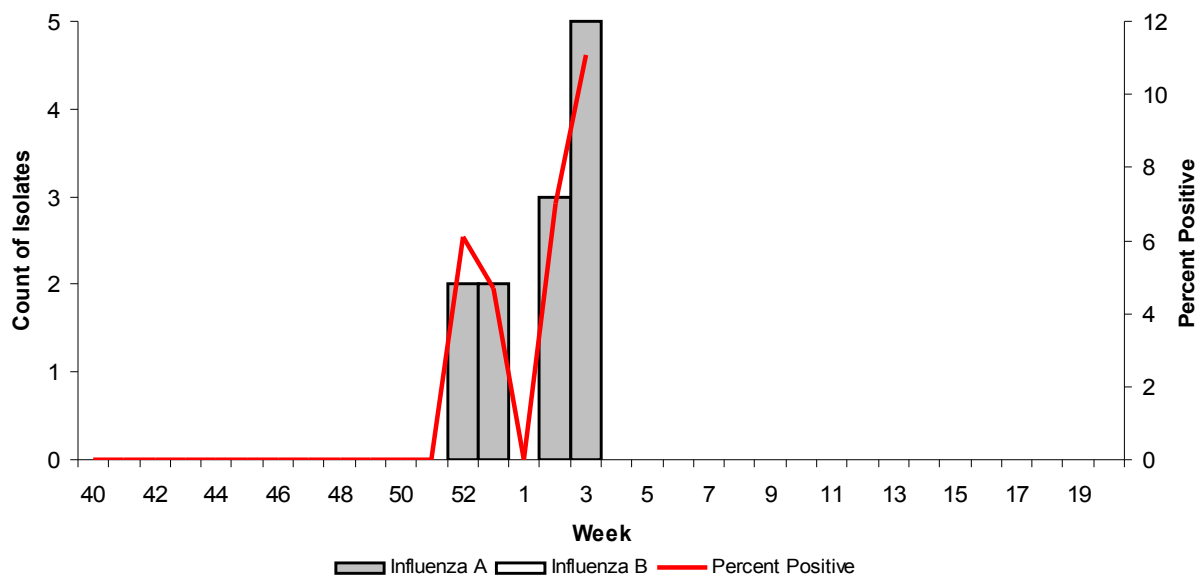
Respiratory Specimens Positive for Influenza from HETL, Maine, 2008-2009



During the week ending January 24th, 2009, 45 samples were submitted for testing to two private reference laboratories, five (11.1%) tested positive for influenza A. Four samples were positive for RSV, and one sample was positive for parainfluenza 3.

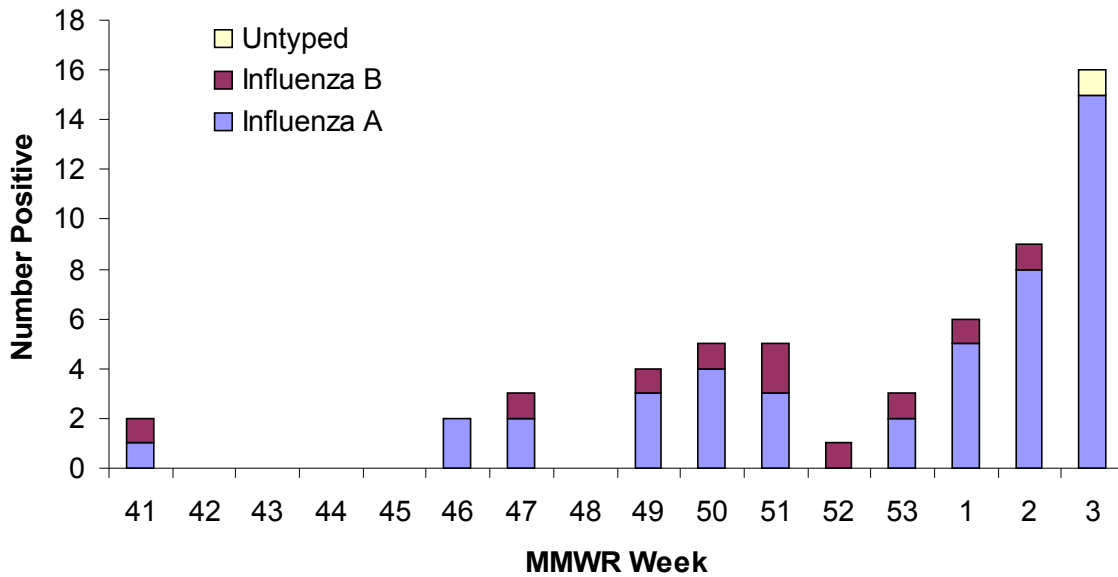
A combined total of 515 specimens have been submitted for respiratory testing to two private labs. To date, 12 samples were positive for influenza A, 26 samples were positive for RSV, ten samples were positive for parainfluenza 3, two samples were positive for adenovirus, and two samples were positive for enterovirus.

Respiratory Specimens Positive for Influenza from Two Reference Laboratories, Maine, 2008 - 2009



Rapid tests are often used in clinical practice and these results contribute to the determination of the state influenza activity code reported to the federal CDC. Many hospitals, laboratories, and physicians offices report these test results to the state. During the week ending January 24th, 2009, 16 samples tested positive using rapid testing, 15 for influenza A and one untyped sample. A combined total of 56 positive rapid tests have been reported this season. Forty five were positive for influenza A, ten were positive for influenza B, and one was not typed.

Positive Rapid Influenza Tests, Maine, 2008-2009



Outbreaks

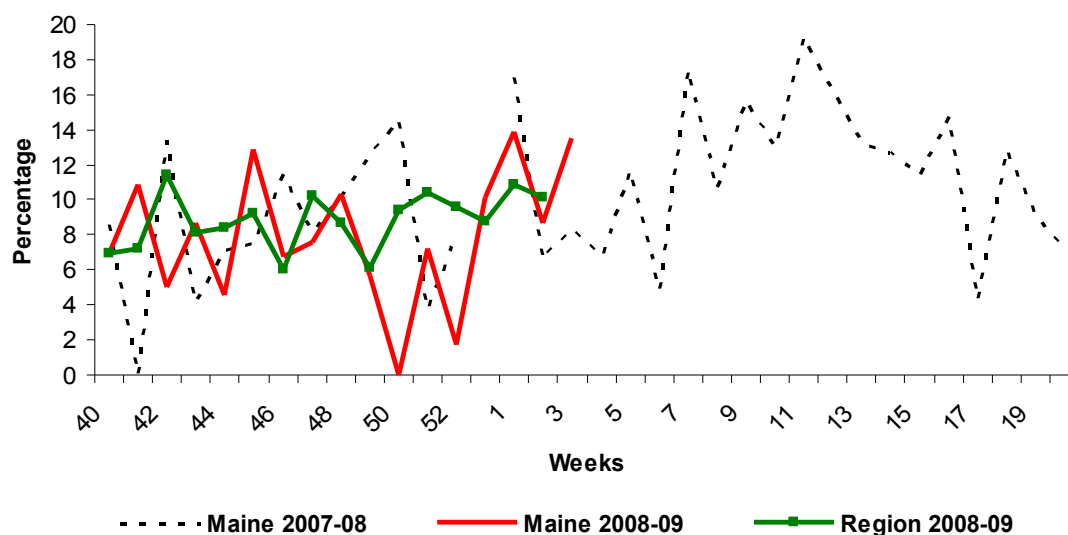
During the week ending January 24th, 2009, one outbreak of influenza-like illness was reported in Maine. This outbreak was in a long term care facility in the Midcoast region, and was confirmed as influenza A. Approximately 5% of residents were affected, and two were hospitalized. To date, two outbreaks of influenza-like illness in long term care facilities have been reported.

Fatalities Surveillance

Death Certificates

During the week ending January 24th, 2009, 13.5% of deaths reported by two city vital records offices were attributable to pneumonia and influenza.

Percentage of Deaths Attributable to Pneumonia and Influenza – Maine, New England and the United States, 2007-09



Pediatric Fatalities

No influenza-associated pediatric deaths in Maine have been reported this season.

National Influenza Activity

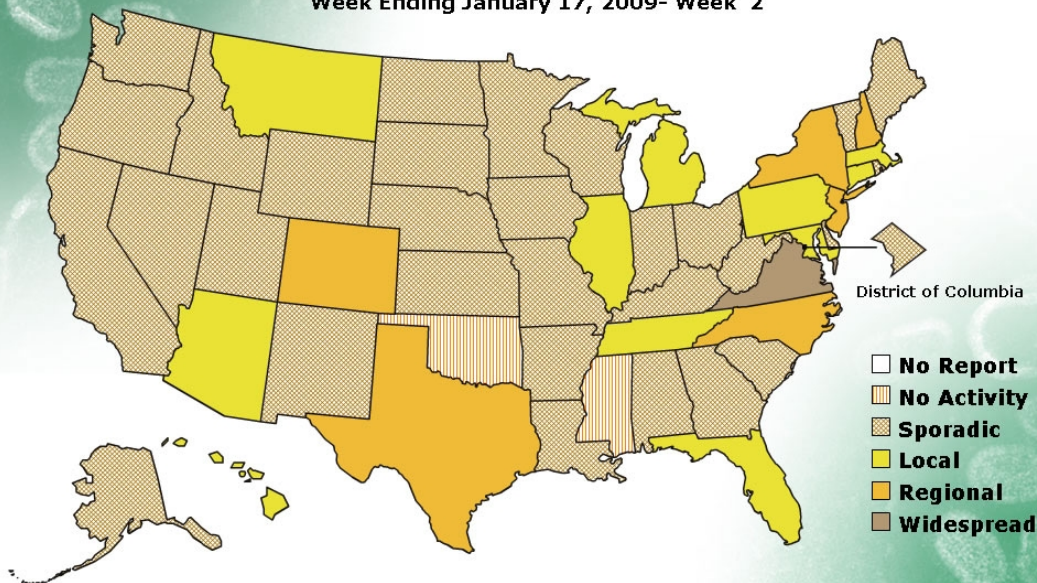
State health departments report the estimated level of influenza activity in their states each week. States report influenza activity as: 1) no activity, 2) sporadic, 3) local, 4) regional, or 5) widespread (definitions of these levels can be found at: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm). Maine reported regional activity for the week ending January 24th, 2009 (week 3).

FLUVIEW



A Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report Prepared by the Influenza Division
Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists*

Week Ending January 17, 2009- Week 2



*This map indicates geographic spread and does not measure the severity of influenza activity.